



Peace & Justice Update
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The countries for the Peace and Justice updates have been chosen as areas of focus at the Institute. The International Human Rights section is intended to focus on aspects of international law. For information on specific cases of human rights abuses, please visit www.hrw.org or www.amnesty.org. The Gender and Peace section highlights events in peacebuilding that pertain to gender and human rights.

Source information: Information presented in this update is condensed from wire and newspaper reports from Lexis/Nexis and from electronic sites on the World Wide Web. Complete bibliographical information is unavailable from these services, but every attempt has been made to properly cite information and give credit to source materials. This update is intended for use by IPJ staff and associates for informational purposes only. As the material in this update is condensed, and does not directly quote the primary source, information from the update should not be quoted.

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UPDATE SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	=	Agence France Presse (www.afp.com)
AP	=	Associated Press (www.ap.org)
AllAfrica	=	AllAfrica Global Media (www.allAfrica.com)
Amnesty International	=	Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org)
Arabic News	=	Arabic News (www.arabicnews.com)
BBC	=	British Broadcasting Corporation (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
BBC Monitoring	=	BBC Monitoring International Reports (www.monitor.bbc.co.uk/)
BCR	=	Balkan Crisis Group (http://www.iwpr.net)
CDC News	=	Center for Disease Control News (www.thebody.com)
Channel NewsAsia	=	Channel NewsAsia (www.channelnewsasia.com)
CNN	=	Cable News Network (www.cnn.com)
CPJ	=	Committee to Protect Journalists (www.cpj.org)
DPA	=	Deutsche Presse-Agentur (www.dpa.com)
FT	=	Financial Times (www.ft.com)
GlobalSecurity	=	GlobalSecurity (www.globalsecurity.org)
Guardian	=	Guardian Unlimited Network (http://www.guardian.co.uk/)
Hi Pakistan	=	Hi Pakistan (www.hipakistan.com)
HRW News	=	Human Rights Watch News (www.hrw.org)
ICC	=	International Criminal Court (http://www.icc-cpi.int/php/index.php).
ICG	=	International Crisis Group (www.crisisweb.org)
IRIN	=	Integrated Regional Information Network (www.irinnews.org) (UN Dept. of Humanitarian Affairs Information Network: (www.unog.ch))
IWPR	=	Institute for War and Peace Reporting (www.iwpr.net)
Kantipur Online	=	Kantipur Online (www.kantipuronline.com .)
Los Angeles Times	=	Los Angeles Times (www.latimes.com .)
M2 Presswire	=	M2.com (http://m2.com/M2/M2Web.nsf .)
NCN	=	New Congo Net (www.marekinc.com/NCN.html)
NYT	=	The New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
PANA	=	Pan African News Agency (www.panapress.com)
Reuters	=	Reuters (www.reuters.com)
RSF	=	Reporters Sans Frontières (www.rsf.org)
Scotsman	=	The Scotsman (www.scotsman.com)
TASS	=	ITAR-TASS News Agency (www.itar-tass.com/english/)
UN News Center	=	UN New Center Homepage (www.un.org)
UPI	=	United Press International (www.upi.com)
VOA	=	Voice of America (www.voanews.com)
WP	=	Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
WPS	=	What the Papers Say (www.wps.ru:8101)
WWP	=	Women Waging Peace (www.womenwagingpeace.net)
Xinhua	=	Xinhua News Agency (www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm)

UPDATE SUMMARY

BALKANS

MACEDONIA

Police investigate murder of immigrants

SERBIA

ICTY criticizes countries for noncompliance; Djindic's alleged assassin surrenders

GENDER AND PEACE

UNFPA holds women's leadership workshop

GREAT LAKES

NGOs seek participation in Great Lakes conference

BURUNDI

Former rebel group withdraws from government; President dismisses rebels' cease-fire announcement

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

Leaders to conduct separate peace talks

SUDAN-CHAD

Chad deploys troops

SUDAN

UN team arrives in Darfur

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

HRW accuses Armenia of rights abuses; UN investigates Iraqi prisoner abuse

NEPAL

U.S. adds Maoists to TEL; Journalists suffer abuse; International donor community meets in Kathmandu

BALKANS

MACEDONIA

Police investigate murder of immigrants: Mirjana Konteska, a police spokeswoman, announced April 31 that in March 2002 Macedonian police shot and killed seven Middle Eastern men in an attempt to show their support for the U.S. War on Terrorism. Police claimed that the targeted men were terrorists who were part of a group plotting attacks on international embassies and personnel in Macedonia; however, recent police investigations found that the victims of the shootings were innocent. The victims, immigrants from India and Pakistan, were smuggled into the country and promised passage to Western Europe. Although not named, six people were charged with murder in connection with the shootings, including three former police commanders, two special police officers, and a businessman who hoped to garner Western support and investment in Macedonia. After the announcement by Macedonian police, the Pakistani government issued a statement condemning the killings of its citizens, and asked for the details of the investigation. (AP, May 4; Scotsman, May 1, 2004)

SERBIA

ICTY criticizes countries for noncompliance: The president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) formally criticized Serbia and Montenegro before the UN Security Council May 4 for inhibiting the Tribunal's investigations of crimes committed during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. Judge Theodor Meron said that neither country was cooperating with the ICTY and was particularly critical of the Serbian government, citing its failure to arrest fugitives, giving immunity for testimony, and not providing access to witnesses. The ICTY's chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte alleged that the Tribunal's top fugitive, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic, was at large in Serbia. Serbia denied that Mladic was within its borders, and criticized the ICTY, stating that it would prefer domestic war crimes trials. (BBC, May 4, 2004)

Djindic's alleged assassin surrenders: Milorad Lukovic, the alleged mastermind behind the assassination of former Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindic, surrendered to authorities May 1 after one year in hiding. Twelve people were already on trial for the Djindic murder but Lukovic's participation was widely suspected. Under former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Lukovic was part of the Red Berets, an elite special police unit that was thought to be directly under the command of Milosevic during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. After Milosevic was forced out of office in October 2000, the new administration disbanded the Red Berets and Lukovic allegedly became the head of the Zemun group, an organized crime unit in Belgrade. It was thought that Djindic's public support for dismantling organized crime was the reason for his assassination. Djindic was killed by a sniper March 12, 2003 in Belgrade. (BBC, May 3, 2004)

GENDER AND PEACE

UNFPA holds women's leadership workshop: The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) hosted a five-day international workshop on "Leadership, Media and Conflict Management" for post conflict countries during the week of April 26 in Kabul, the capital

city of Afghanistan. As a follow-up to a global training workshop on post-conflict situations held in Slovakia in 2002, the conference was aimed at enhancing women's roles in peace building in Afghanistan. Participants said that the workshop identified the challenges of promoting women to leadership positions, and discussed ways of overcoming those obstacles. After the workshop, a delegate from the Ministry of Women's Affairs said that the ministry would request a special budget for gender empowerment, and work on the inclusion of gender-related issues in every government policy. The UNFPA hoped to expand similar initiatives to other cities in Afghanistan to encourage women's empowerment in leadership and raise gender awareness in conservative rural areas. ([IRIN](#), May 4, 2004)

GREAT LAKES

NGOs seek participation in Great Lakes conference: The Great Lakes Peace and Security Network (GLPSN), a coalition of civil society organizations working on peace building, has lobbied for participation in the first summit of the Great Lakes conference sponsored by the UN and the African Union. The conference, which was to be held in Dar es Salaam in November 2004, was to bring together regional leaders to establish a framework for the implementation of regional security and peacebuilding. A lobbyist for GLPSN said that representatives of civil society groups from Burundi, the DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia were due to meet in Dar es Salaam in June to discuss what needed to be addressed at the conference. Baregu said that approximately 50 organizations joined the network's preparatory process. ([IRIN](#), April 28, 2004)

BURUNDI

Former rebel group withdraws from government: A former rebel movement, the Council of National Defense for Democracy – Forces for Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), announced May 3 that it would no longer participate in the government and the National Assembly in protest of delays in the implementation of a cease-fire accord signed in November 2003. The CNDD-FDD complained that two main political parties – the Burundi Democratic Front and the Union for National Progress – have excluded it from the management of Burundi's political affairs. A CNDD-FDD spokesperson said that the suspension of the CNDD-FDD's activities in politics would not affect the country's security situation and called on former combatants to continue to respect the provisions of the peace accord. In response, a Burundian government official said that the transitional government would accept the demands made by the group and that within a week the government would address all grievances that the CNDD-FDD had expressed. Security in Burundi has significantly improved since the signing of the power sharing accord between the government and the CNDD-FDD in 2003. ([IRIN](#), April 30, 2004)

President dismisses rebels' cease-fire announcement: President Domitien Ndayizeye, said April 29, during a visit with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, that the rebel group Forces for National Liberation (FNL), was insincere about a recent cease-fire offer, citing the recent bombing in Bujumbura as evidence. However, President Ndayizeye firmly stated that the peace process in Burundi would remain unhindered despite the FNL's continued refusal to join the peace talks. President Museveni said that Uganda

would impose sanctions against the FNL if it continued to shun opportunities to get involved in Burundi's peace process. Hutu insurgents in Burundi fought the Tutsi-dominated army for 11 years until cease-fire agreements were signed in 2003 by the government and most of the rebel groups. The FNL refused to sign the agreement and continued their attacks against the army. (IRIN, April 30, 2004)

HORN OF AFRICA

SOMALIA

Leaders to conduct separate peace talks: A group of faction leaders who walked out of the Somali peace talks in February announced that they would conduct a separate conference to discuss peace for the country. The leaders refused to rejoin the talks being held in Kenya after claiming that conference organizers mismanaged the talks, and that some Somali leaders were working against the interests of the country. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the regional organization facilitating the official peace talks, claimed that the third and final stage of negotiations would begin May 6 regardless of the leaders' absence, and appropriate action would be taken against those who obstructed the peace process. The Somali peace talks began in October 2002 to end the country's 14-year armed conflict and to establish an all-inclusive interim government. (IRIN, April 29, 2004)

SUDAN-CHAD

Chad deploys troops: The government of Chad deployed troops along the border of Sudan after a Sudanese Arab militia entered Chad in a cross-border raid. According to the Chadian government, the Janjawid militia raided the border town of Koulbous, stole livestock, and attempted to retreat back to the Sudanese border. Chadian defense forces pursued the Janjawid, who were joined by Sudanese army forces near the countries' border. A Chadian presidential spokesman reported that Chadian troops withdrew from the pursuit after being bombed by a Sudanese plane. This incident was the first to occur between the two armies since an estimated 110,000 Sudanese refugees fled to Chad as a result of the Darfur conflict. (AP, April 29; BBC, April 30, 2004)

SUDAN

UN team arrives in Darfur: A UN human rights mission arrived in Darfur April 28 to assess the humanitarian conditions of the region. The team, which included the Executive Director of World Food Program and the UN Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan, visited three regional areas to investigate the crisis. They reported that an estimated 60,000 displaced civilians in the town of Mornei continued to fear for their lives, and that conditions in western Darfur were "unacceptable" and "highly unsuitable." The team called on the Sudanese government to increase efforts to control armed militias, protect displaced civilians and allow humanitarian access into the region. The Darfur conflict has displaced approximately one million civilians since it erupted in February 2003 between the Sudanese government, pro-government militias, and rebel groups. (IRIN, April 29, 30, May 4, 2004)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

HRW accuses Armenia of rights abuses: Human Rights Watch (HRW) called for an investigation May 4 into the mass arrest of protestors last month in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. HRW claimed that the police used excessive force against peaceful demonstrators who were calling for the president's resignation. HRW encouraged international parties with security interests in Armenia, including the European Union and the U.S., to monitor their security-related funding and ensure that it did not contribute to any human rights abuses. The opposition protestors said that they were demonstrating against what they viewed as a flawed presidential election in 2003, which led to the reelection of Robert Kocharian. (HRW News, May 4, 2004)

UN investigates Iraqi prisoner abuse: The UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) began an investigation of civil and human rights abuses in Iraq May 4 and urged the U.S. military to prosecute soldiers involved in the torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners. Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertrand Ramcharan, said that he was troubled by the reports of abuse and photographs of Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad and added that those responsible should be brought to justice. The treatment of the prisoners was a violation of the Geneva Convention which stated that Prisoners of War must be treated humanely at all times. The OHCHR team used journalists, the U.S.-led coalition, foreign aid groups, and Iraqi UN employees as its sources of information for its investigation because it could not travel to the country. The UN withdrew its international staff from Iraq after its offices in Baghdad were bombed in August 2003. (AP, May 4, 2004)

NEPAL

U.S. adds Maoists to TEL: The U.S. State Department added the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) to its Terrorist Exclusion List (TEL). Under the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001, individuals or groups who supported TEL designated organizations were denied entry into the U.S. This new move together with the restrictions imposed in October 2003, which froze the Maoists assets in the U.S., limited the group's access to international assistance. The status change was made during a truce between the Maoists and the Nepalese Army, partly brokered by the International Red Cross. The new U.S. ambassador to Nepal, James Francis Moriarty, promised to support the Nepalese government in its fight against the Maoists. (Kantipur Online, April 30)

Journalists suffer abuse: According to the 2004 Annual Report from Reporters Without Borders released May 3, more journalists were arrested in Nepal in 2003 than in any other country. Of the six Nepalese journalists killed in 2003, three were killed by government forces, two by the Maoist insurgents and one by an unidentified group. The Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) said that more than 100 journalists had been physically and psychologically abused by the state and the Maoists during the past two and a half years. In response to the arrests and other assaults, FNJ demanded a public apology from Prime Minister Surya Thapa and called upon Home and Communications Minister Kamal Thapa to resign. (BBC, May 3; Hi Pakistan, May 4; RSF, May 3, 2004)

International donor community meets in Kathmandu: Members of the international donor community and the Nepal Development Forum (NDF), an assembly of bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, civil society, and government officials, agreed to meet May 5 with political parties opposed to the upcoming NDF conference. The meeting between the parties and NDF was to focus on the present political situation, democracy, and human rights issues and not the NDF agenda. Earlier this year, the political parties rejected the programs and policies put forth by the NDF because they believed they lacked a long term vision for Nepal. In a related report, Amnesty International (AI) encouraged the donor community to make human rights issues the center of their discussions. AI said that NDF was a unique opportunity for the international community to demand action from the Nepalese government on human rights issues. (Amnesty International; Kantipur Online, May 4, 2004)